

Introductory Pāḷi Course

by

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Vandanā

Salutation to the Buddha

*Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato
Sammā Sambuddhassa*

Homage to the Blessed One, the Perfected
One, the Fully Enlightened One.

Lesson 15

03 May 2014

2. Conjugation of Verbs

动词的变化

2.1 Present Tense, Active Voice

Conjugation of Verbs:

- Verbs are **grouped according to roots** (*dhātugaṇa*)
- There are **7 groups** (for details, see The New Pali Course, pg. 10)
- Verbs with different ending vowels are conjugated differently
- We have learnt:
 - **base ending with “a”:**
most of the verbs we have learnt, like
pacati (cook), *patati* (fall), *bhuñjati* (eat)
 - **base ending with “e”:**
thapeti (keep), *uḍḍeti* (fly), *pūjeti* (offer)

Conjugation of Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

- So far, only the present tense, active voice, 3rd person, singular and plural verbs have been introduced together with nouns:

Person	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>Naro pacati</i> (The man cooks)	<i>Narā pacanti</i> (The men cook)
3 rd	<i>Dārako naccati</i> (The child dances)	<i>Dārakā naccanti</i> (The children dance)
3 rd	<i>Sakuṇo uḍdeti</i> (The bird flies)	<i>Sakuṇā uḍdenti</i> (The birds fly)

Pronouns

- Now, we shall learn a few pronouns:

Person	Singular	Plural
3 rd , Masculine	<i>so</i> (he)	<i>te</i> (they)
3 rd , Feminine	<i>sā</i> (she)	<i>tā, tāyo</i> (they)
3 rd , Neuter	<i>taṃ</i> (it)	<i>tā, tāni</i> (they)
2 nd	<i>tvam</i> (you)	<i>tumhe</i> (you)
1 st	<i>aham</i> (I)	<i>mayam</i> (we)

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

- Now, we shall learn a few pronouns:

Person	Base Ending with “a”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So pacati</i> (He cooks)	<i>Te pacanti</i> (They cook)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ pacasi</i> (You [sg.] cook)	<i>Tumhe pacatha</i> (You [pl.] cook)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ pacāmi</i> (I cook)	<i>Mayaṃ pacāma</i> (We cook)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is lengthened

→ *pacāmi, pacāma*

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

- hence, the full conjugation:

Person	Base Ending with “a”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So pacati</i> (He cooks)	<i>Te pacanti</i> (They cook)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ pacasi</i> (You [sg.] cook)	<i>Tumhe pacatha</i> (You [pl.] cook)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ pacāmi</i> (I cook)	<i>Mayaṃ pacāma</i> (We cook)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is lengthened

→ *pacāmi, pacāma*

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Fall

Person	Base Ending with “a”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So patati</i> (He falls)	<i>Te patanti</i> (They fall)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ pataṣi</i> (You [sg.] fall)	<i>Tumhe pataṭha</i> (You [pl.] fall)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ patāmi</i> (I fall)	<i>Mayaṃ patāma</i> (We fall)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is lengthened
→ *patāmi, patāma*

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Eat

Person	Base Ending with “a”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So bhuñjati</i> (He eats)	<i>Te bhuñjanti</i> (They eat)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ bhuñjasi</i> (You [sg.] eat)	<i>Tumhe bhuñjatha</i> (You [pl.] eat)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ bhuñjāmi</i> (I eat)	<i>Mayaṃ bhuñjāma</i> (We eat)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is lengthened
→ *bhuñjāmi, bhuñjāma*

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Hear/Listen to

Person	For Understanding, Ending with “ā”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So suṇā</i> ti (He hears)	<i>Te suṇa</i> nti (They hear)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ suṇā</i> si (You [sg.] hear)	<i>Tumhe suṇā</i> tha (You [pl.] hear)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ suṇā</i> mi (I hear)	<i>Mayaṃ suṇā</i> ma (We hear)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is already long

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Give

Person	For Understanding, Ending with “ā”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So dadā</i> ti (He gives)	<i>Te dadā</i> nti (They give)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ dadā</i> si (You [sg.] give)	<i>Tumhe dadā</i> tha (You [pl.] give)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ dadā</i> mi (I give)	<i>Mayaṃ dadā</i> ma (We give)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is already long

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Keep

Person	For Understanding, Ending with “e”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So ṭhape</i> ti (He keeps)	<i>Te ṭhape</i> nti (They keep)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ ṭhape</i> si (You [sg.] keep)	<i>Tumhe ṭhape</i> tha (You [pl.] keep)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ ṭhape</i> mi (I keep)	<i>Mayaṃ ṭhape</i> ma (We keep)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is **not** lengthened
- (there is no *ē* in *Kaccāyana* anyway!)

Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Offer

Person	For Understanding, Ending with “e”	
	Singular	Plural
3 rd	<i>So pūjēti</i> (He offers)	<i>Te pūjēnti</i> (They offer)
2 nd	<i>Tvaṃ pūjēsi</i> (You [sg.] offer)	<i>Tumhe pūjētha</i> (You [pl.] offer)
1 st	<i>Ahaṃ pūjēmi</i> (I offer)	<i>Mayaṃ pūjēma</i> (We offer)

- for 1st person, the last vowel is not lengthened
- (there is no *ē* in *Kaccāyana* anyway!)

Conjugation of Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Person	Singular
3rd	<i>So bhattaṃ pacati.</i> He cooks rice.
2nd	<i>Tvaṃ bhattaṃ pacasi.</i> You (sg.) cook rice.
1st	<i>Ahaṃ bhattaṃ pacāmi.</i> I cook rice.

Conjugation of Verbs: Present Tense, Active Voice

Person	Plural
3rd	<i>Te bhattam pacanti.</i> They cook rice.
2 nd	<i>Tumhe bhattam pacatha.</i> You (pl.) cook rice.
1 st	<i>Mayam bhattam pacāma.</i> We cook rice.